The Autobiography of the German Reptile in America

ARTICLE II

By Stanley Frost

"The fact is that the papers referred to stand upon the ground of a sound American policy but . . . are much German orientation could possibly be."

HUS wrote Dr. K. A. Fuehr, one of the chiefs of the German propaganda in America, in a report on principle that controlled the Prince Karl Dernburg schemes and the flight Regrets From that time the Reptile went entirely that a man was "100 per cent American" the German cause. It ceased to

when Bernstorff was sent home, was the most active, and most deadly of the Repmost active, and most deadly of the present time. The policy has failed even to attempt to satisfy American thought, and the satisfied the shadow, but not the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow, but not the stock can be held." It is interested to satisfy the satisfied the shadow of the

mocratized and that the Kaiser was being curbed, that would please the Americans so much that they would quit, or, at least,

But America Did Not Stop

This scheme, besides showing the Reptile's methods, illumines a little of the beast's psychology, which has remained very largely incomprehensible to the non-German mind. Here, as always, the Reptile worked logically from all the factors it could understand: President Wilson had declared that America was fighting German militarism, not the German people. would have nothing in Germany to fight, ica that militarism was about to be depected America to stop fighting.

revision of the scheme-instead more con- surance of success. vincing proofs than the opinions of the

cialists took charge. who had supplied the Reptile with the ammunition for the beginning of its democthe Reptile- if ever. But the programme, derstand mankind, started under the Kaiser's orders, has gone forward till to-day without a break in its

the Reptile's utmost efforts-it is the prodaganda, as in its military campaigns, have tried very, very hard to play suf-

often come on the very brink of success. This weakness is, fundamentally, a blind, Still Poisoning bland, naive and childlike egotism. The The News Reptile - the German individually and collectively has never admitted, and probably has never seen, that it could possibly be in | phase of the Reptile's life here—and it is a ing, of conduct, of understanding or of | writer that can be corrupted-was the deznorals, never. Major Daniel T. Pierce, chief | filing and warping of the sources of inforof the bureau of public information of the | mation, the poisoning of the facts as well Red Cross in Paris, showed this recently | as the editorial advice on which American when he wrote:

"The attitude of all the Germans I have seen since the armistice was signed has known to it. It developed and expanded been one of blank unconsciousness of any reason why Americans should feel any animosity whatever toward a German.

We shall never be able to understand the Boche any more than he will be able to un-

of hospitals, have created in our minds a feeling that no terms of peace can ob-

of Paris, the devastation of Northern France, the looting of private property, the German by a twist of world politics. Eng. other publications of that kind. American Newspapers to Spread Propaganda, as Disclosed to the Senate Committee

The first notice of these newspaper plans

purpose, and it was ceaselessly feeling each. Mr. Rosenburg of Sears, Rosebuck & before he went abroad, Besides money it offered to newspapers the effects of his propaganda is that "The to the Hearst papers was summed up by every advantage that it could command - Mail," which Dr. Schweitzer could have ob- Captain Lester, who showed a series of his

approached within the last four years by Konta wrote to Dr. Dernburg a long letter, was in Berlin," stated that officer. "I have that has come to the attention of the secret | terests between the Reptile and the brew-

rity, and branched out into new their government was an attack on German own stock centrol of the paper, and sug-

The plan is to start trouble in California,

by the Reptile, purported to "truly neutral" Americans.

Propaganda Via the Movie

through this way.

1916, show the life going on in the big

dum of E. L. Fox, suggesting the use of films in anti-Japanese agitation, has already been referred to. It was some months after that was written that "Patria" appearedin January of 1917. The author of record is Louis Joseph Vance, though Captain Lesdicating he was not the real nuther. It was

"Patria" was a film originally depicting Mexicans across the Mexican border, the Japanese being the villains of the play. When President Wilson saw the film he requested that certain changes be made, and as these were put through, consisted it subduing the Japanese villainy; the chief actors were all given Mexican names and the distinctively Japanese scenes were cut ese uniforms, and when the film get to Cansecond revision was undertaken. This was more thorough. The invading "Mexicans" widely circulated, the corrected version being substituted in the United States after war was declared.

can feeling. It is still blandly wondering that has been revealed—that for "The New some scores which received more or less | Besides his news writing, Hale took part was interested. The Reptile considered

the view of which all things German must be right and must succeed, the crooked and

blind chauvinism so carefully cultivated by the Reptile among its own subjects at home -shows through the long list of its failures in America. Bernstorff writes bitterly when he discovers that the subsidies to a Reptile press which work so perfectly at home will not work here. Dernburg departs in stupefied amazement when he finds that America So, if militarism were destroyed, America tania massacre, Zimmermann offers Mexico will not tolerate his defence of the Lusisome of our Southwestern states, and the argued the Reptile. Therefore it told Amer- Reptile laments "awkwardness." The submarine piracy brings America into the war stroyed from within, and it obviously ex- with a deciding weight, and Prince Karl merely disapproves the submarine war, be-When America did not stop there was no cause it was started without sufficient as-

radical gentlemen appeared, in the shape of | Reptile's brain. It concocts the most granriots and demonstrations. Eventually, diose schemes seeks to start wars, control America still failing to respond to the elections, seduce France. It even does suctreatment as expected, the highest evidence | ceed in partly wrecking Italian morale. It was supplied: The Kaiser fied and the So- is a "mark" for adventurers, who, our secret service men testify, practically swindled it advertisement, they wouldn't do it without No evidence has yet been offered as to out of millions, giving little of real value the exact time when these tame Socialists, in return. It fails, as Prince Karl also remarked, "to appreciate the points of view of other nations." In short, the Reptile, racy propaganda, actually ceased to serve being a product of supermen, does not un-

The usual Teutonic traits also show and "The Mail." everywhere in the Reptile's record. With all its grandione schemes it pinched the This particular line of propaganda has pennies, and there is correspondence as to been the most thoroughly carried out and the advisability of spending \$15. It trusted the most expensive of all those undertaken nobody, and insisted on frequent and deby the Reptile. On its success depends the tailed reports from every one a single future of Deutschtum and Kultur. It shows | agent here permitted 56,000 papers to fall into American hunds! It was, as has been net of its highest cunning and deceitful- so often remarked, naturally and naïvely ness. And it shows, too, that weakness in dishonest. It was laborious to the extreme, the Reptile's psychology which has led to | careful, meticulous and methodical. It disso many failures, failures which in its prop- regarded all obligations and duties. It

The most striking feature of the second the wrong. It owns to mistakes of methods | feature that will never disappear from its or of organization, but to those of reason- work so long as there is a newspaper or a | isn't it?" public opinion is based. It used with the utmost skill every secret means of publicity every effort along this line attempted during the first phase, except that of subsidiz- wrote: ing small publishers, which had failed because it could not be kept secret.

The attempt to control supposedly Amer-

Eyes On

The matter was discussed extensively with Count von Bernstorff, the Reptile's head, at a house party in the Adirondacks the following Christmas, according to a A Newspaper New York broker, whose deposition was submitted. Only parts of the deposition were published, but these outline very suc-

cinctly the Reptile's scheme. They follow: Q. Tell us just what was said on that public in the papers) as well as you can recollect it

A .- We were talking of the New York papers, and I made the remark that most f our papers here were very high-minded. For instance, if you wanted to put out a security of a new corporation which was not tried out, and you should give "The New York Sun" an advertisement conditionally upon there being a news item in their financial column, which is worth more than any a thorough investigation, and they would notify you that if their advertisement de pended on that you couldn't get it in, and I remarked that there were only two papers ! in New York City that I believed could be bought, and those were the Hearst papers

A .- Yes, he thought it was absolutely necessary.

Q. What did he say about Hearst? A .- I am leading up to that. . Part of deposition excluded. . Ha said I have to have somebody to put our news in the way we want it.

Q.—Had you mentioned "The American" r "The Journal"? A .- I mentioned the Hearst papers particularly, and he said that he had had his eye on Hearst as an available man, and I came away with the distinct impression that he expected to see Hearst, and when I saw that Hearst was publishing a German paper I mentioned it later to the count, and said: "I guess you got to those fellows,"

and he said: "Well, it's working all right, Q.-When was this subsequent conversa-

A .- Oh, about a year later.

and other places the following story: "That official Germany is interested in not know Hale was an employe of the Rep-

German money are known. A little apart in other work for the Reptile. He was sent from this line was the assistance given on a special mission from Berlin to Rumitted them to the German Embassy and which is supposed to have brought its pro-"The National Courier," a weekly published mania, just before the latter country enin Washington, which was intended to offset | tered the war. Another German agent has | ly influenced by them. in some degree the weakness caused by the | testified that plans were made to have of defection from the German side of "The ficial cipher messages concealed in Hale's All for

To Let

The had been caused by the death of John R. McLean, its owner, and the inheritance of the property by his son. The con-(the German view being put before the | nection of "The Washington Post" under the elder McLean with the Reptile is not entirely clear. Under date of October 17, 1914. Bernstorff wrote to Albert: "The Washington Post' was offered me to-day to buy for \$2,000,000, with intention to buy it back again after the war for \$1,500,000. A second offer was to put the paper entirely at our disposal for two months for \$100,000. The paper is of importance and the only large newspaper in the capital. How do you stand on the question of the money? I have not yet inquired in Berlin."

The only other information placed before the committee was from reports by Bernstorff and Dr. Fuehr, in which they spoke of "The Post's" aid to the cause. Bernstorff, on October 27, 1916, wrote the Foreign Office: "We were deploring the death of Q.—Did he express a desire to get into Mr. John R. McLean. The latter had given his newspaper an entirely anti-English character, so that his death left a great gap, He tried to sell the British Secret Service organization something like The Associated Efforts tunately, never hope to fill. 'The Washington Post' has since been fairly neutral, but may be entirely lost to us if it cannot, as is

> The Reptile bought newspaper writers as well as newspapers. Two of the outstanding instances of this the hiring of William Bayard Hale and Edward Lyell Fox - have been referred to in connection with other matters. Their "news" correspondence furnishes one of the most startling chapters in the Reptile's history

Hale was the biggest of these subsidized writers. He had been getting \$10,000 a year before the war, the testimony shows, and was employed by the Reptile for \$15,-000. He had written a life of Wilson and The scheme to put McClure at the head of Germans had hopes of getting to the Presia big news organization was mentioned in | dent through him. He spent more than again, according to a letter from Viercek, sheet, and then was sent to Germany to dated April 15, 1915, to Dr. Albert. He | write for the Hearst papers, though a cable message from Bernstorff declares he was un-"Dr. Rumely . . . has told in Chicago | der a contract with Germany, to run till June, 1918. Bernstorff also says that Henrst did

news dispatches. The evidence shows that Hale wrote a note which he suggested should be sent to Bryan, when the latter was Secretary of State, in reply to one of Bryan's notes to Germany; and Hale apparently passed on the qualifications of Reginald Rutherford, who was sent from this country as a spy.

Selling Out Von Papen

Edward Lyell Fox got to Germany before Hale did as the correspondent of the Wildman Syndicate, apparently innocent in the | the Reptile used two other means of infludeal, and with relations with the Hearst | encing American news, besides the blamepapers which resulted in his working very less one of being nice to American correclosely with the Hearst organization, as spondents and newspaper men in general. out. But the actors and the soldiers still well as with the German propagandists in The first of these was to send over from appeared with Japanese faces and Japanese Berlin. He wrote articles from Berlin Germany men who seemed to be correwhich Captain Lester characterized as "pure spondents of German newspapers, but were add the censor there issued a flat order akes," a notable one being a description really agents of the government. These against it, even in the revised form, and a f alleged Russian atrocities, sent for the men interviewed American officials, wrote purpose of offsetting the German atrocities | for American papers and magazines when in Belgium. This was published in "The possible, and sent home news dispatches were given Mexican clothes and features New York American" under the paper's own which were sometimes little different from It was in this final form that the nim was copyright. He spent several months in official reports. Germany, making two trips and being | The other means was by the control of stopped on a third, and providing pure pro- | the sources of news in Germany, and the German propaganda and nothing else.

cheme to cause war between America and turn from Germany, where he had several mysterious conferences with high officials.

\$40 Per

"The curious thing about the Wingate letters is this," testified Captain Lester, | ter testified that there was information in "They give accurate information of happenings in Cabinet and government circles. put out by the International Film Service Where this information came from I do not | Corporation, owned by Hearst know, but the letters have all been checked with subsequent events, and it is quite an invasion of America by Japanese and obvious that in certain cases information was obtained from some source or other. He had a backdoor entrance somewhere."

All this the Reptile got for \$40 a week. In addition to these subsidized Americans,

doctoring of news sent from there. It con-His other activities were also numerous. trolled the semi-official Wolff Bureau, an Some Other one batch of information he brought from | Press in this country, except that it spoke Germany. He also tried to get market tips for the government. It controlled also the trom von Papen, the German military at- Overseas News Agency, whose wireless dis- of miscellaneous publicity activities. taché. But his most notable performance patches for a long time formed one of the sent lecturers through the country, includvery desirable, be put into the hands of Mr. was the preparation of a memorandum on a chief sources in America of news as to hap- ing several men who have already been penings in Germany. This bureau was not mentioned. It entered into a deal with Japan. This memorandum was prepared and semi-official; the Reptile used it to dis- Hearst for the publication in America of the passed to von Papen shortly after Fox's re- seminate lies for which it did not want to diary of the commander of the submarine stand sponsor.

He told people here that at these confer- Reptilian news. The War Department Press ors on the U-boats. It backed schemes for ences some secret scheme of his had been Bureau issued a "Foreign News Sheet." A propagandist plays. It sent out a flock of substantially approved. He has since de- "Bulletin" was sent out from the Foreign supposed book agents to get information nied that there was any serious purpose be- Office. The War Department also got out a about the people they approached, and to hind the memorandum, claiming that it was "War Chronicle," published in many lan- convince them if possible. It filled the prepared by himself and Dr. Karl Armigard guages for the benefit of the foreign cor-Graves, a former German international spy, respondents in Berlin. There was a supposwith the hope that they could make some edly private service, Reptile ewned, known to disseminate propaganda. The memorandum is over 1,000 words in was also the "Political Correspondence of ple which came under my notice," said Capoccupied confidential posts for him, and the length, going into considerable detail. Fox Central Europe," published in many lanstated the object of the plan to be "the guages. German newspapers, notably the about the personnel of the staff than the the previous article. This cropped up a year as editor of the German press agent facturers supplying the Allies with ammunition and other munitions of war. If car- posed news service abroad. Finally, there another article, next week, will be taken up ried through there is a second and inci- were the German supported papers the other lines of its propaganda-the organizadental goal the loss to Japan of the Ger- notorious "Continental Times," which called tions with which it filled America, the atitself a "Journal for Americans Abroad," tempts to stir up race and class hatred. Fox points out that America is sus- and indulged in the most absurd German | the careful coordination between pen and

Deutschland, Hearst agreeing to give the There were other organs for putting out profits to the widows and children of sail-

derstand why the bringing about of the war, the submarine campaign, the bombardment of the Reptile's policy from the first. It of the money is to be obtained by getting fif- with the most minute details of the work arouse public epinion again. "The thing to mislead and corrupt the people in the terri-